

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 1 and 4-9 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 5-14 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, these claims will not be rewritten in independent form at this time because their respective independent claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,214,551 (Kaneda). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an apparatus having a carriage to which a head member is mounted. The apparatus includes a toothed belt and preventing means. The toothed belt extends between a driving pulley and an idler pulley and the carriage is attached thereto. The preventing means has a jumping preventing surface and is disposed at a position where the jumping preventing surface is opposed to a back surface of the toothed belt in the vicinity of the driving pulley and adapted to prevent an idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt.

With the present invention, in an apparatus in which a carriage moves at high precision, for example, the toothed belt can be prevented from jumping the driving pulley.

As discussed previously, Kaneda is directed to a drive device of a tape recorder. Although a magnetic head 3 is mounted on a sliding plate 2 provided on a base 1, a carriage is not attached to a toothed belt, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

In Kaneda, electric motor 10 rotates a driving pulley 11 for driving belt 16 stretched between the driving pulley and a driven pulley 15. Belt 16 drives both the driven pulley 15 and a capstan 14. A pinch roller 7 is pivotally mounted to a free end of a pinch roller arm 5 and a stopper 2b for restricting counterclockwise rotation of the pinch roller arm 5 is provided on the sliding plate 2. Driving gears 17, 18, idler gears 19, 20 and idler arm 21 are provided along with take-up reel and feed reel shafts 12, 13 and their respective driven gears 21, 23. Idler gear 20 engages gear 23 when idler arm 21 swings counterclockwise and engages gear 22 when it swings clockwise. A shaft 25 is spaced from the capstan and includes a small driven gear and a partially toothed gear 27. A stopper 2c is formed in sliding plate 2 for engaging the shaft of idler gear 20 on the idler arm 21 to prevent the idler arm from rotating counterclockwise. However, Kaneda does not disclose or suggest preventing means having a jumping preventing surface disposed at a position where the jumping preventing surface is opposed to a back surface of the toothed belt in the vicinity of the driving pulley and adapted to prevent idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt, as is also recited in independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Kaneda fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-14 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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